

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 IGA-02

ARA-16 EA-11 DRC-01 /209 W
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P 051645Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5120

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KISNSHASA 8702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CG, UK, IS, PO

SUBJ: REACTION TO MOBUTU'S SPEECH AT UNGA

REF: KINSHASA 8691 (NOTAL

1. LOCAL REACTION TO MOBUTU'S OCTOBER 4 SPEECH AT UNGA HAS BEEN PREDICTABLE. STATE COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION SAKOMBI PERSONALLY WENT ON AIR NEXT DAY IN SLOT USUALLY FILLED BY DAILY VOICE OF ZAIRE EDITORIAL AND UNDERScoreD IMPORTANCE OF SPEECH AS EVIDENCE OF MOBUTU'S COURAGE AND AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD. KINSHASA PRESS HAS LABELED SPEECH "MASTERLY AND HISTORIC". OUR ZAIRIAN CONTACTS ARE EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR MOBUTU'S FORTHRIGHTNESS AND ABOVE ALL CURIOSITY AS TO FOREIGN REACTION.

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2. EMBASSYS INITIAL VIEWS ARE THESE. MOBUTU TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF UN FORUM TO ADVANCE HIS CANDIDACY FOR ROLE AS A MAJOR SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD. HIS DRAMATIC BREAK WITH ISRAEL SERVED TO GET WORLD'S ATTENTION AND, COUPLED WITH HIS PLEAS FOR A NORTH AFRICAN VOICE IN EUROPEAN SECURITY TALKS CONCERNING MEDITERRANEAN, HELPED TO FURTHER CEMENT HIS TIES WITH MOSLEM AFRICA. HIS STRONGLY WORDED DECLARATION OF ZAIRE'S "MOBILIZATION" TO FIGHT RACIALISM AND COLONIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS NOT WHOLLY NEW, BUT IT IS BOUND TO FIND FAVOR IN BLACK AFRICA. MOREOVER, MOBUTU DRAMATIZED IT SIGNIFICANTLY BY THE VIGOR WITH WHICH HE BLAMED BRITAIN, NATO, AND "POWERS MORE POWERFUL THAN PORTUGAL" FOR THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HIS SWEEPING CONDEMNATION OF CURRENT FORMS OF WESTERN AID AND OF GENERAL TRENDS IN TERMS OF TRADE ECHOED THEMES OF OTHER THIRD WORLD SPOKESMEN, BUT HE HIGHLIGHTED HIS ATTACK WITH WARM PRAISE FOR CHINESE AID AND SPECIFIC SUGGESTION THAT RICH COUNTRIES WAIVE DEBTS OF SAHEL COUNTRIES. OTHER MOVES TO POLISH ZAIRE'S THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS WERE MOBUTU'S PLEA FOR RETURN TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF AT LEAST PORTION OF THIRD WORLD ART WORKS NOW LOCATED IN RICH COUNTRIES, AND HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT UN CHARTER (SC MEMBERSHIP) BE REVISED TO REFLECT ALTERED WORLD SCENE.

3. WHILE MOBUTU HAD WARNED AS LONG AGO AS LAST JANUARY THAT HIS SPEECH AT UNGA WOULD BE STRONG ONE, HE WENT FURTHER THAN WE ANTICIPATED. IN ADDITION TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL (COMMENTS REFTEL), SHARP ATTACK ON UK FOR ITS POLICIES TOWARD RHODESIA CAME AS SOMETHING OF SURPRISE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF MOBUTU'S SCHEDULED STATE VISIT TO LONDON IN DECEMBER. PRESUMABLY HE EXPECTS HMG TO BE IMPRESSED BY SINCERITY AND WEIGHT OF HIS ARGUMENTS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT AT ONE POINT IN SPEECH HE SAID HE WAS "SHOUTING LOUD IN ORDER TO BE HEARD".

4. US CAME IN FOR LESS DIRECT CRITICISM THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED. MOBUTU DOUBTLESS MEANT IN MOST CASES TO INCLUDE US AMONG RICH AND POWERFUL STATES WHOSE POLICIES HE ATTACKED, BUT HE DID NOT SAY SO. MOREOVER, HE DID
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NOT FORGET TO THANK IN GENERAL TERMS STATES THAT SUPPORTED UN RESCUE OPERATION IN ZAIRE. HE ALSO PRAISED SUCCESSFUL US PEACE INITIATIVE IN VIETNAM AND TOOK LESS PARTISAN LINE ON CAMBODIAN QUESTION THAN HIS RECENT RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK MIGHT HAVE SUGGESTED. HIS STATEMENT ON KOREAN QUESTION WOULD FURTHERMORE SEEM TO PRESAGE WITHDRAWAL OF ZAIRIAN CO-SPONSORSHIP OF OPPOSITION ALGERIAN RESOLUTION.

5. PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHETHER, TO WHAT EXTENT, AND HOW QUICKLY MOBUTU'S STRONG UTTERANCES ON ANGOLA WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ACTION. THE RECORD SUGGESTS HE WILL PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY, KEEPING ZAIRE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS CLEARLY IN FOCUS. HOWEVER, HE HAS PLACED HIMSELF IN SOMETHING OF A BOX BY CALLING FOR A CONCERTED AFRICAN EFFORT TO LIBERATE REMAINING COLONIES ON THIS CONTINENT.

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